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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

[C-570-072]

Sodium Gluconate, Gluconic Acid and Derivative Products from the People's Republic of China: Postponement of Preliminary Determination in the Countervailing Duty Investigation

AGENCY: Enforcement and Compliance, International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce.

DATES: Applicable [INSERT DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*].

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert Galantucci at (202) 482-2923 or

Jonathan Hill at (202) 482-3518, AD/CVD Operations, Enforcement and Compliance,

International Trade Administration, Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20230.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

On December 20, 2017, the Department of Commerce (Commerce) initiated the countervailing duty (CVD) investigation of sodium gluconate, gluconic acid and derivative products from the People's Republic of China.<sup>1</sup> Currently, the preliminary determination is due no later than February 26, 2018.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See *Sodium Gluconate, Gluconic Acid, and Derivative Products from the People's Republic of China: Initiation of Countervailing Duty Investigation*, 83 FR 499 (January 4, 2018).

<sup>2</sup> Commerce has exercised its discretion to toll deadlines for the duration of the closure of the Federal Government from January 20 through 22, 2018. See Memorandum, "Deadlines Affected by the Shutdown of the Federal Government," dated January 23, 2018 (Tolling Memorandum). Accordingly, all deadlines in this segment of the proceeding have been extended by 3 days.

### Postponement of the Preliminary Determination

Section 703(b)(1) of the Tariff Act of 1930, as amended (the Act), requires Commerce to issue the preliminary determination in a CVD investigation within 65 days after the date on which Commerce initiated the investigation. However, section 703(c)(1)(A) of the Act permits Commerce to postpone the preliminary determination until no later than 130 days after the date on which Commerce initiated the investigation if a petitioner makes a timely request for a postponement. Under 19 CFR 351.205(e), a petitioner must submit a request for postponement 25 days or more before the scheduled date of the preliminary determination and must state the reason for the request. Commerce will grant the request unless it finds compelling reasons to deny the request.<sup>3</sup>

On January 23, 2018, PMP Fermentation Products, Inc. (the petitioner) submitted a timely request pursuant to section 703(c)(1)(A) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.205(e) to postpone the preliminary determination. The petitioner stated that the purpose of its request was to provide Commerce with adequate time to solicit information from the respondents and to allow Commerce and interested parties sufficient time to analyze respondents' questionnaire responses.<sup>4</sup>

In accordance with 19 CFR 351.205(e), the petitioner has stated the reason for requesting a postponement of the preliminary determination and the record does not present any compelling reasons to deny the request. Therefore, in accordance with section 703(c)(1)(A) of the Act, and in light of the closure of the Federal Government from January 20 through 22, 2018, Commerce

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<sup>3</sup> See 19 CFR 351.205(e).

<sup>4</sup> See Letter from the petitioner to Commerce, "Countervailing Duty Investigation of Sodium Gluconate, Gluconic Acid and Derivative Products (GNA Products) from the People's Republic of China: Petitioner's Request to Postpone the Preliminary Determination," dated January 23, 2018.

is postponing the deadline for the preliminary determination to May 2, 2018.<sup>5</sup> Pursuant to section 705(a)(1) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.210(b)(1), the deadline for the final determination will continue to be 75 days after the date of the preliminary determination, unless postponed at a later date.

This notice is issued and published pursuant to section 703(c)(2) of the Act and 19 CFR 351.205(f)(1).

*Dated: February 2, 2018.*

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Gary Taverman,  
Deputy Assistant Secretary  
for Antidumping and Countervailing Operations,  
performing the non-exclusive functions and duties of the  
Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance.

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<sup>5</sup> Note that the revised deadline incorporates a 65-day postponement, *i.e.*, to 130 days after the date on which this investigation was initiated, in addition to a 3-day extension due to closure of the Federal Government.

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